

Your New Service Tool

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) is dedicated to helping prevent and treat substance abuse problems in the State of Maine.

This Prescription Monitoring Program's primary goal is to be a tool for prescribers to aid them in providing better care to their patients.

Specialized Resources

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) can serve as a valuable resource to you.

The office has a treatment team, as well as certified addiction specialists, who can give you extra advice and counsel if you need it. Other helpful resources include professional associations, such as the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association, and the Maine Chapter of ASAM.

PMP Questions

If you have any questions about the PMP, please contact Daniel Eccher, PMP Coordinator:

Phone: (207) 287-3363

Email: daniel.eccher@maine.gov

Additional Resources

OSA can help you access your local network of substance abuse treatment providers:

OSA Information Resource Center

Phone: (207) 287-8900

TTY: (207) 287-4475

OSA's Web Site

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa>

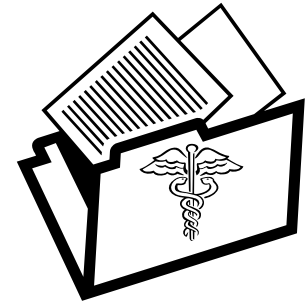
OSA's website contains excellent resources for your use.

The Find Help link, at the top left of each page, is a searchable online database of treatment services throughout Maine.

In the Data & Research section of the site, you can find a link to the Prescription Monitoring Program pages. These pages have a range of useful resources, including pain treatment agreements, useful links, and the brochures outlining this program.

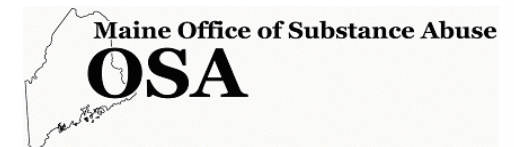
In the IRC section, you can find a broad range of brochures, books, and articles to better inform you and your patients about prescription drugs, substance abuse, and addiction.

Maine's Electronic Prescription Monitoring Program



Additional Information For Prescribers

This Brochure offers some options of what to do if you suspect or find a patient is misusing prescription drugs.



The Issue at Hand

Without your knowledge a patient may be using prescription drugs in a very dangerous way. Pain and anxiety are very real to patients who are abusing drugs. Information may have just come to you from the new Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Reports that are sent when a patient surpasses a prescription threshold level or when you request a patient history profile. The information given to you is a tool to help you provide better care for your patients and assist them in receiving help for prescription drug abuse.

After receiving a report, patient safety generally dictates the need to discuss the patient with the other doctors listed on the report. Such discussions can help you decide collectively who (if indicated) will continue to provide prescriptions for the Schedule II through IV drugs to the patient and who will address any potential problems with him or her.

Remember that the patient's problem may be an addiction and that treatment is the best solution.

Questions to consider as you talk to patients:

- Do they have depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues?
- Do they need pain consultation with a specialist?
- Do they need psychiatric help with their problems?
- What treatment options are available?
- Are they addicted to something?

Discussing addiction and abuse with patients can be difficult but can lead them to a safer and better way of life.

Patients who are confronted about drug addiction may:

- Deny the accuracy of the information on the report
- Plead or try to bargain with you
- Threaten harm to self or others
- Admit their problem but have no intention of following through on any recommendations
- Try to justify their actions
- Shift responsibility for their behavior to others.

These reactions are characteristic of addictive behavior.

Care and Understanding

A patient with a drug abuse problem is likely to be frightened and desperate. They may have a distorted concept of their behavior, believe nothing is wrong, or convince themselves that someone else is to blame. As you attempt to defuse arguments and calmly present the facts, you can offer helpful suggestions that may guide your patients into treatment.

If your patient is using drugs in a dangerous or illicit manner it is a complex problem. You may want to refer the patient to specialty care or consult with an addiction specialist, a psychiatrist, or a pain specialist.

Overdose deaths and addiction to prescription drugs are troubling and very real problems. OSA encourages you to use the PMP to your advantage to provide safer and better care to your patients.